

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Among the pending claims, claims 6-9 and 19-22 are withdrawn from further consideration. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **March 18, 2003**.

(I) Claim Objections

Claim 12 was objected to since claim 12 states that the ester component is represented by the formula "(VIII)," but the formula actually denotes "(XIII)," and because of misplacing a period. Claim 16 was objected to because of unclear antecedent basis with respect to "the" polypropylene resin.

Amendments in claims 12 and 16 are believed to cure the objections.

(II) Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

Claims 1-5 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Amendments in claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 18 are believed to overcome the rejection.

(III) Claim Rejections 35 USC 102

Claims 10-13, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and/or 102(b) as being anticipated by WO99/23534 by Nakanishi et al. WO99/23534 is alleged to be identical to US Patent 6,326,115.

Contrary to the examiner's statement that Nakanishi et al. anticipate claims 10 and 18, Nakanishi et al. do not disclose an ester type component represented by the formula (XI). Although the examiner points out that trimethylolpropane tribehenate meets the requirement of formula (XI), neither descriptions in Example II-9 and col. 28, lines 30-37 in Nakanishi et al. produce the ester type component represented by the formula (XI). Therefore, the rejection is unsupported and should be withdrawn. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(IV) Claim Rejections 35USC 103

(1) Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO99/23534 by Nakanishi et al. (USP6,326,115), in view of Gruber et al. (USP 4,578,338), still further in view of Tomono et al. (USP 4,997,739).

Neither Nakanishi et al., Gruber et al., nor Tomono et al. disclose the ester type component represented by the formula (I). Thus, even if they are combined together, the invention as defined in claim 1 cannot be obtained. Therefore, the rejection is unsupported and should be withdrawn. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gambayashi et al. (USP 6,335,139)

The present application is an international application filed on March 17, 2000, which is prior to the filing date of Gambayashi et al., August 22, 2000. Therefore, Gambayashi et al. is not prior art with respect to the present application.

(3) Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gambayashi et al. (USP 6,335,139), and further in view of Gruber et al. (USP 4,578,338), still further in view of Tomono et al. (USP 4,997,739).

The present application is an international application filed on March 17, 2000, which is prior to the filing date of Gambayashi et al., August 22, 2000. Therefore, Gambayashi et al. is not prior art with respect to the present application. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

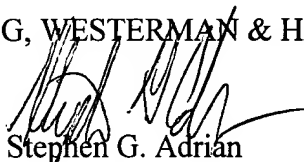
(V) In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-5, 10-13, 16 and 17, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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